

Message Text

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ACTION IO-13

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FM AMEMBASSY DACCA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1540

INFO AMEMBASSY COLOMBO

AMEMBASSY SEOUL

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 DACCA 3932

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PORG, BG, UN, US

SUBJ: MULTILATERAL AFFAIRS: KOREA AND PUERTO RICO

REF: A) STATE 178439; B) STATE 181500; C) STATE 181798

D) STATE 184327; E) DACCA 2620

SUMMARY. OVER THE PAST WEEKS CORE GROUPS MEMBERS, PARTICULARLY JAPAN, KOREA, AND THE U.S., HAVE REITERATED REPRESENTATIONS TO THE BDG ON KOREA. THE BDG'S POLICY, AS STATED BY MFA OFFICIALS, IS TO MAINTAIN GOOD RELATIONS WITH BOTH KOREAS BUT TO RECOGNIZE NO SOLUTION TO THE ISSUE IS POSSIBLE WOITHOUT THE PARTICIPATIONOF ROK. IN ONE CONVERSATION, MFA LIKENED ITS POSITION TO THAT TAKEN BY MALAYSIA AT THE NACC BUT MADE NO COMMITMENT TO DEFEND THAT POSITION AT THE NAM SUMMIT. IN RESPONSE TO OUR REPRESENTATION ON PUERTO RICO, MFA OFFICIALS REITERATED THE BDG'S SUPPORT FOR SELF-DETERMINATION BUT INDICATED THAT THE BDG DELEGATION WAS UNLIKELY TO TAKE EXCEPTION TO THE DRAFT LANGUAGE ON PERTO RICO PREPARED FOR THE NAM SUMMIT. END SUMMARY.

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1. KOREA

ON THE KOREA ISSUE, THE CONVENOR OF THE CORE GROUP, JAPANESE AMBASSADOR YOSHIOKA, CONSULTED WITH CORE GROUP ON JUNE 18 AND AGAIN ON JULY 29. ON THE LATTER OCCASION AMBASSADOR YOSHIOKA REPORTEDLY ON HIS REPRESENTATION TO FOREIGN SECRETARY TABARAK HUSAIN ON JULY 15, A BRIEF CONVERSATION WITH DEPUTY MARTIAL LAW ADMINISTRATOR ZIAUR RAHMAN ON JULY 25, AND HIS CALL ON ADDITIONAL FOREIGN SECRETARY A.M. CHOUDHURY JULY 28, AT WHICH TIME HE MADE CORE GROUP PRESENTATION WITH PARTICULAR REFERENCE TO SECRETARY KISSINGER'S PROPOSAL OF JULY 22. TABARAK HUSAIN REPORTEDLY SPOKE OF THE BDG'S DESIRE TO MAINTAIN GOOD RELATIONS WITH BOTH NORTH AND SOUTH KOREA BUT ALSO MADE REFERENCE TO THE FACT THAT THE ROK HAD NOT BEEN A SIGNATOR TO THE ARMISTICE AGREEMENT. HOWEVER, YOSHIOKA SAID, AFONSEC CHOUDHURY REPORTEDLY SAID THAT THE BDG APPRECIATED THE CONSTRUCTIVENESS OF THE SECRETARY'S PROPOSAL, AS ONE DESIGNED TO MAINTAIN PEACE AND TO AVOID HOSTILITY TOWARD NORTH KOREA. BDG'S BASIC POSTION WAS TO KEEP GOOD RELATIONSHIP WITH BOTH KOREAS BUT, CHOUDHURY SAID, ANY ATTEMPT AT RESOLUTION WITHOUT THE PARTICIPATION OF THE ROK WOULD BE UNFAIR AND UNREALISTIC. EVEN THOUGH BANGLADESH WAS WEAK AND WITHOUT INFLUENCE IN INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS, CHOUDHURY SAID, THE BDG WOULD TRY TO PLAY A MODERATING ROLE IN THE NAM AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE. ACCORDING TO YOSHIOKA, GENERAL ZIA, WITH WHOM HE HAD DINED JULY 25, REMARKED ONLY THAT IT WAS NOT WISE TO DEAL WITH POLITICAL ISSUES AT NAM CONFERENCES; THE EMPHASIS SHOULD BE ON ECONOMIC MATTERS.

2. CHOUDHURY EXPRESSED ESSENTIALLY THE SAME VIEW TO THE DCM ON JULY 26 WHEN LATTER PRESENTED THE TEXT OF THE SECRETARY'S PROPOSAL. CHOUDHURY SAID THAT THE BDG LBBOKS AT THE REUNIFICATION QUESTION IN ITS TOTALITY, FAVORING TALKS BETWEEN NORTH AND SOUTH KOREA. REVIEWING THE NORTH KOREAN ARGUMENT FAVORING ANNULMENT OF THE ARMISTICE AND WITHDRAWAL OF FOREIGN TROOPS, CHOUDHURY SAID THAT THERE SHOULD BE AN ALTERNATIVE ARRANGEMENT REFLECTING THE EXPRESSED WILL OF THE PEOPLE OF KOREA. IN A SEPARATE CONVERSATION WITH EMBOFFS JULY 26, REAZ RAHMAN, THE DIRECTOR FOR INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS, CARRIED THIS POSITION ONE STEP FURTHER WHEN HE SAID THAT ALTHOUGH THE BDG WANTED BALANCED RELATIONS WITH BOTH

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KOREAS, ITS STAND WAS MORE FAVORABLE TO SOUTH KOREA BECAUSE THE BDG FAVORED THE ROK'S PARTICIPATION IN ANY SETTLEMENT. RAHMAN CONTINUED THAT THE BDG FAVORED THE REMOVAL OF ALL TROOPS UNDER THE UN COMMAND, BUT HE UNDERSTOOD THIS WAS

SAID TO BE SOME 300 TROOPS; THE BDG, HE COMMENTED ALMOST IN AN ASIDE, WAS NOT ADDRESSING ITSELF TO FORCES UNDER BILATERAL AGREEMENTS. RAHMAN, WHO WAS IN THE PROCESS OF

DRAFTING PRESIDENT SAYEM'S SPEECH FOR COLOMBO, READ TO EMB-
OFFS THE SENTENCE ON KOREA, IN WHICH THE BDG SUPPORTED THE
PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT OF THE KOREAN ISSUE THROUGH A NORTH-
SOUTH DIALOGUE.

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3. AT THE JULY 29 CORE GROUP MEETING, ROK AMBASSADOR YOON
CONVEYED THE GIST OF HIS OWN MEETINGS WITH A.M. CHOUDHURY
ON JULY 15 AND WITH KAISER MORSHED THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL FOR
THE EAST, PACIFIC AND AMERICAS, ON JULY 26. ACCORDING
TO YOON, CHOUDHURY REFERRED IN PARTICULAR TO THE MALAYSIAN
STATEMENTS AT THE ALGIERS NACC, AS WELL AS TO COMMENTS BY
ZAIRE AND NEPAL, AND SAID "THESE ARE EXACTLY THE POSTION OF
THE BDG", INCLUDING THE NEED FOR A NORTH-SOUTH DIALOGUE.
CHOUDHURY REPORTEDLY SAID THAT THERE WAS NO REASON WHY
THE BDG SHOULD NOT TAKE THE SAME POSITION BUT HE MADE NO
COMMITMENT TO SPEAK OUT AT THE COLOMBO MEETING. THE BRITISH
DEPUTY HIGH COMMISSIONER TOLD THE CORE GROUP THAT IN A
CONVERSATION BETWEEN THE UK HIGH COMMISSIONER AND FOREIGN
SECRETARY IN MID-JULY, TABARAK HUSAIN HAD INDICATED THAT THE
BDG WAS SYMPATHETIC TO THE CORE GROUPS POSITION BUT WOULD TAKE
NO INITIATIVE AT COLOMBO. THE BELGIAN, DUTCH, AND THE FRG
EMBASSIES REPORTED THAT THEY HAD NOT RECEIVED ANY RECENT IN-
STRUCTIONS AND CONSEQUENTLY HAD NOT MADE ANY REPRESENTATIONS.

THE CANADIANS DID NOT ATTEND THE JULY 28 CORE GROUP MEETING.

4. PUERTO RICO

DURING HIS JUNE 26 CALL ON THE ADDITIONAL FOREIGN SECRETARY,
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THE DCM ALSO ADDRESSED THE PUERTO RICO ISSUE PER REFTELS. IN RESPONSE, CHOUDHURY READ EXCERPTS FROM WHAT HE SAID WAS THE DRAFT POLITICAL RESOLUTION CIRCULATED BY SRI LANKA AND BASED UPON THE LIMA TEXT. HE QUOTED NOT ONLY THE PHRASE "THE INALIENABLE RIGHT OF SELF DETERMINATION" BUT ALSO A REFERENCE TO PUERTO RICO AS ONE OF THE "MAIN ENCLAVES OF COLONIALISM IN LATIN AMERICA", A FORMULATION WE WERE NOT AWARE WAS IN THE SRI LANKA DRAFT. REPEATING HIS REMARKS MADE DURING EARLIER DISCUSSION OF PUERTO RICO (REF E), CHOUDHURY SAID THAT THE BDG IS COMMITTED TO SELF DETERMINATION AND SYMPATHETIC TO THE PRINCIPLE THAT PEOPLE SHOULD BE FREE TO EXPRESS THEIR OWN POLITICAL WISHES. IN THIS REGARD, HE SEEMED TO HAVE FORGOTTEN THE PREVIOUS REHEARSAL (REF E) OF THE PUERTO RICAN RECORD OF REFERENDUM AND ELECTIONS. CLEARLY IMPLYING THAT BANGLADESH WAS UNLIKELY TO RAISE ANY OBJECTIONS TO THE LANGUAGE IN THE PROPOSED DRAFT RESOLUTION, CHOUDHURY TOOK THE POSITION THAT NAM DECISIONS WERE REACHED BY CONSENSUS AND THAT THE BREVITY OF THE SUMMIT MEETING WOULD PERMIT EACH COUNTRY TO FOCUS ONLY ON QUESTIONS OF PARTICULAR INTEREST TO IT.

5. COMMENT. ALL MEMBERS OF THE CORE GROUP AGREE THAT THE REPRESENTATIONS MADE TO THE BDG HAVE BEEN SUFFICIENT FOR THE PRESENT AND WE SHOULD ALL HERE AWAIT THE OUTCOME OF COLOMBO CONFERENCE TO DETERMINE WHAT MORE COULD BE DONE WITH BDG BEFORE THE UNGA. WHILE IT WOULD APPEAR THAT THE FOREIGN SECRETARY HAS BEEN TAKING A SOMEWHAT LESS ACCOMMODATING POSITION THAN WE WOULD WISH, THE ADDITIONAL FOREIGN SECRETARY HAS CONSISTENTLY ENDORSED THE NEED FOR THE PARTICIPATION OF THE ROK IN ANY SOLUTION. WE ARE INCLINED TO THINK THIS WILL REMAIN THE BDG POSITION BUT WE ARE NOT OPTIMISTIC THAT THE BDG WILL DEFEND THAT POSITION ACTIVELY AT COLOMBO.

6. AS WITH KOREA, THE BDG IS WELL AWARE OF THE IMPORTANCE WE ATTACH TO THE PUERTO RICO ISSUE BUT IS LIKELY TO CONTINUE TO TAKE REFUGE IN THE NON-VOTING CONSENSUAL PROCEDURE AT COLOMBO TO AVOID HAVING TO TAKE A STAND. A COMMON THEME IN ALL BDG RESPONSES TO REPRESENTATIONS ON CONTROVERSIAL ISSUES IS THAT BANGLADESH IS A COUNTRY WITH LITTLE POLITICAL IMPORTANCE THAT TRIES TO BE A MODERATING FORCE BUT HAS NO
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REAL ABILITY TO INFLUENCE THE OUTCOME OF INTERNATIONAL CON-
FERENCES.

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